

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Albania/USSR

DATE DISTR. 28 March 1952

SUBJECT 1. Arrests and Prison Conditions
2. Commodity Prices and Wages
3. Army Desertions

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In the region of Leskovik, 60 persons were recently arrested on the charge of aiding "reactionaries" escape to Greece.
2. Among the most important persons arrested were: Koco Milli and Koco Talani, both from Postenan; Vasil Vidhe and Jorgji Premto from Carshkove; Mane Ragipi from Vrepcke; Vangjel Anastasi, a chemist from Melan; and Thoma Titko of Leskovik.
3. Shepherds in the south, also accused of aiding escapees, are being arrested en masse, their herds confiscated and families interned in concentration camps.
4. The daily food ration in prisons consists of 500 grams of maize and potato soup. The prisons are so overcrowded that the men sleep one over the other. Food sent by their families is delivered after a four-day delay. Many have died from insufficient food. The majority suffer from tuberculosis.
5. Little food is available as the year's harvest was not good. Although a kilo of maize is sold in the cooperatives for 3 leks, only 5 kilos are distributed per person each month. In the open state shops a kilo of maize is sold for 180 leks, the highest price for maize ever asked. Beans are sold in the cooperatives for 24 leks per kilo, in the open state shops for 200 leks. There is no sugar, rice or macaroni for distribution with coupons. In the open shops, local sugar, of poor quality, sells for 250 leks per kilo, butter for 500 leks per kilo. The ration of oil with coupons is 250 grams per month; however, distribution has been discontinued for 7 months. There is oil in the open shops, but it sells for 400 leks per kilo. Shoes are sold in the cooperatives for 650 leks, in the open shops for 1,300 leks; the shoes are of such poor quality that they are worn out in 20 days.

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6. The daily wage of workers is between 70 and 75 leks. Employees (sic) are paid 2,700 leks per month.

25X1 7. In connection with the prices and wages quoted above, [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] the official rate of the dollar has dropped from 50 to 37 leks.

25X1 8. The number of Army desertions has alarmed the Albanian authorities and "the Soviets who are in each battalion. [REDACTED]

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